

JAN 22, 1962

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ADVANCE FOR AMS OF MONDAY, JAN. 22 NOTE DATE

(550) CIA-MCCONE

BY EDWIN B. HARRISON

(ADVANCE) WASHINGTON JAN 21 (AP)—DIRECTOR JOHN A. MCCONE DEFENDED TODAY THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BUT DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAIL ON ITS OPERATIONS, PAST OR FUTURE.

REPLYING TO CRITICISMS AIMED AT THE SUPER-SECRET AGENCY AND AT HIS QUALIFICATIONS TO HEAD IT, MCCONE REITERATED HE DOES NOT FEEL THE CIA DIRECTOR IS IN A POLICY-MAKING POSITION. AND HE PROMISED TO KEEP FOUR CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES INFORMED ABOUT OPERATIONS OF THE AGENCY. WHAT CIA DOES, HOW IT DOES IT, HOW MANY EMPLOYEES HAS AND WHAT IT SPENDS NEVER HAS BEEN PUBLICLY DISCLOSED.

MCCONE'S PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE CIA AND HIS PLANS FOR IT WENT IN A LETTER TO CHAIRMAN RICHARD M. RUSSELL, D-GA., OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. THE COMMUNICATION WAS SENT IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED LAST WEEK AT A COMMITTEE HEARING ON HIS NOMINATION.

THE COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE TOMORROW AND SEND ON TO THE SENATE FOR INDICATED CONFIRMATION, PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S APPOINTMENT OF THE 60 YEAR OLD MILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST AND SHIPPING LINE EXECUTIVE FOR THE SENSITIVE POST.

MCCONE SUCCEEDED ALLEN W. DULLES AS CIA DIRECTOR LAST NOVEMBER WHILE CONGRESS WAS IN RECESS.

LAST THURSDAY SEN. EUGENE J. MCCARTHY, D-MINN., RAISED A NUMBER OF CRITICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT CIA OPERATIONS AND THE FITNESS OF MCCONE FOR THE IMPORT POST.

AS PRESENTLY OPERATING, MCCONE SAID THAT THE CIA "IS NOT A BAD PATTERN OF ORGANIZATION" BUT ADDED "SOME CHANGES WILL BE INDICATED."

MCCARTHY QUESTIONED BOTH THE LEGALITY AND AUTHORITY FOR SOME RECENT ACTIONS CREDITED TO THE CIA. HE SAID THE SECRET AGENCY WAS REPORTED TO HAVE HELPED OUT THE PREMIER OF IRAN IN 1953, OVERTHROW THE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA IN 1954, AND AIDED THE ILL-FATED CUBAN INVASION.

IN REPLY, MCCONE WROTE:

"MANY EVENTS HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OVER THE YEARS, AND IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO HAVE THE FACTS ON THESE MATTERS, BUT I CERTAINLY DO NOT ACCEPT BECAUSE THEY ARE ATTRIBUTED TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY THAT THE AGENCY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM."